Simplification of Export Policy

4270 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government purpose to formulate a new simplified export-import policy (1997-2002);

(b) whether the Government have consulted the representatives of Trade and Industry while formulating the above policy;

(c) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereof; and

(d) the time by which the new export-import policy is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir.

As part of the exercise for formulating the new Export & Import Policy, Consultations with Trade and Industry through Export Promotion Councils and Apex Organizations like FIEO, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM etc. have taken place and their various suggestions pertaining to the Export Promotion Schemes have been examined. Those found acceptable will be reflected in the new Export & Import Policy 1997-2002 to be implemented from April, 1997.

[English]

Tocklai Tea Research Centre

4271. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tocklai Tea Research Centre, Jorhat has faced acute financial crisis at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide sufficient and for the smooth functioning and research work at the said centre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Tocklai Tea Research Centre, Jorhat under the Tea Research Association has been facing financial problems at present, mainly due to non receipt of regular contributions from members belonging to tea industry.

(c) Funds have provided by the Government to Tea Research Association through the Tea Board from time to time to meet its share of expenditure.

Investment in Shares

4272. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of companies are forfeiting their partly paid-up shares as the investors have failed to pay up the final ca money to their respective companies due to the Company's price has always been quoting at discount to the offer price

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the action of the companies are unde the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956;

(d) if so, whether a large number of small investors will be affected by such a move on the part of the companies;

(e) if so, the reasons for taking such discriminatory decision by the companies against the interest of the general investors; and

(d) the measures the Government propose to take to curb such practices adopted on the part of the companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (f Such cases do get reported sometime in the Press. Bu companies have the option to forfeit partly paid shares under certain circumstances as per provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Section 292 (1) (a) of the Companies Act empowers the Board of Directors to make calls on shareholders in respect of money unpaid on their shares. The members of a company by virtue of Section 36 of the Act are bound by the provisions of the Articles of Association. Those companies which have incorporated in their articles provisions similar to Articles 29 to 35 o Table A (Regulations for Management of the Companies Limited by Shares) of *Schedule-I* of the Companies Act as per Section 28 of the Act, such companies acquire the powers for forfeiture of shares held by a member if he fails to pay any call or instalment, as and when such a call is made by the Board of Directors of the company

[Translation]

Export Oriented Units in Gujarat and Bihar.

4273. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether any export oriented units have been set up in the country particularly in Gujarat and Bihar particularly in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof location-wise;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of such States where export oriented units have been set up, State-wise and location-wise;

(e) the details of those units which have fulfilled their export commitments and their earning from exports;

(f) the details of such units which have failed to fulfil their export commitments and the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance of these export oriented units and to fulfil their export commitments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits

4274. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold biscuits weighing 62 Kg. worth over Rs. 3.21 crore in Delhi on December 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure;

(c) the number and details of gold seizures made by DRI and other enforcement investigating, intelligence or security agencies in the country during 1996; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent gold smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Acting on specific intelligence, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 531 gold biscuits weighing 61.93 Kgs. valued at Rs. 312.00 lakhs on 26.12.1996 from a Maruti Gypsy. Two persons have been arrested and remanded to judicial custody in this regard.

(c) and (d) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has during 1996 seized gold weighing 182 Kg. worth Rs. 936 lakhs in 20 cases. During the same period 890 Kgs. of gold worth Rs. 4616 Lakhs has been seized by other Anti-Smuggling agencies (figures are provisional). Steps taken to prevent smuggling of gold includes further liberalization of gold imports under Passenger Baggage scheme, besides high alert being maintained by anti-smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-Ray machine etc.

[Translation]

Recommendation of Chellaiah and Rekhi Committee

4275. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ASSOCHEM has stated in its Memorandum submitted to the Government that a Custom and Excise Duty Settlement Commission should be set up immediately on the recommendations of Chellaiah and Rekhi Commitee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is still under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

[English]

Export of Handicrafts

4276. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has explored problems faced by Handicraft Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has identified the infrastructural problems faced by the handicraft centres which mainly relate to the areas like frequent power cuts, lack of telecommunication facilities, bad condition of roads, distant location of passport offices & foreign post offices, inadequate Rail & Air transport facilities, availability of seasoning plants for wood etc.

The remedial action is an on-going process. However, the action recently taken by the Government, inter-alia, include; setting up of telephone exchange with 4000 lines at Moradabad, earmarking Rs. 50.00 lakh for establishing a growth centre at village Chaudharpur in Moradabad by